

Events around the commonwealth honor veterans

Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force took part in Veterans Day observations across the commonwealth Nov. 11, 2019, honoring those who served and are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"It is so important that we pause each year to recognize our veterans, past and present," said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, in his keynote address at the Veterans Day observation at Quantico National Cemetery in Triangle, Virginia. "Men and women of the armed forces have secured the way of life we enjoy today, and that same service, sacrifice, courage and commitment is being demonstrated around the world by Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen who put themselves in harms way to defend the freedoms that are so important to all of us."

Brig. Gen. James Ring, VNG director of the joint staff, led the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Bailey sang the national anthem. Members of the all-volunteer Virginia Defense Force provided traffic control for the event.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/11/12/14284/>



Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Bailey sings the national anthem at the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11, 2019, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

192nd Security Forces Squadron return from federal duty in Afghanistan

Ten Virginia Air National Guard Airmen assigned to the 192nd Security Forces Squadron, 192nd Wing, returned to Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, from a six-month deployment in Afghanistan Oct. 23, 2019.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/11/06/14291/>

Cree promoted to colonel, takes authority as USPFO

Lt. Col. Jeffery R. Cree was promoted to colonel and assumed authority as the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for Virginia during a ceremony Nov. 1, 2019, at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/11/05/14264/>

Williams to succeed Volant as 91st Cyber Brigade commander

Col. Teri D. Williams will succeed Col. Adam Volant as the commander of the Virginia National Guard's Bowling Green-based 91st Cyber Brigade, according to an announcement made Nov. 5, 2019.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/11/05/14286/>

VNG pilot pops surprise proposal at JMU game

James Madison University graduate 1st Lt. Blake Place was already having a pretty great day after helping kick off his alma mater's football game Nov. 9, 2019, with a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flyover. Now, it was almost time to propose to Andrea Dargie, his girlfriend of two years.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/11/13/14298/>

Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

Va. Air National Guard

<https://www.192fw.ang.af.mil/join>

Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

Join the Virginia Army National Guard Alumni Network

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/vngan/>

29th ID Band presented Superior Unit Award

The Virginia National Guard's Troutville-based 29th Infantry Division Band received the Army Superior Unit Award streamer from Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora, VNG Assistant Adjutant General-Army, during a ceremony Nov. 9, 2019, before the Virginia Veterans Parade in Roanoke, Virginia.

"I was honored to present the 29th ID Band with the Army Superior Unit Award on behalf of the 29th ID commanding general, and it was very fitting that we presented the award in front of their hometown crowd in Roanoke before the Virginia Veterans Parade," Flora said. "The Soldiers of the 29th ID Band serve as ambassadors for the Virginia National Guard at events across the commonwealth as well as overseas, and I couldn't be more proud of the job they do. Earning the ASUA is not easy, and it recognized the hard work and dedication of all the members of their band and their outstanding leadership."

The band earned the ASUA for their successes between Oct. 1, 2015, and Sept. 30, 2017. That period included a short-notice deployment for a contingent of their Soldiers to Kuwait. During the deployment, the band performed ceremonial music during two events, including a hand-off from the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division to the Fort Leavenworth-based 35th ID, and an awards ceremony for a chemical company.

"It allowed nine members of the band an opportunity to do their wartime mission of providing music throughout the full spectrum of operations," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donald Carlson, the band's commander.

At the same time as the deployment, the band was also completing a much different mission: moving into a new facility in Troutville. The band had been based out of the now-closed Clifton Forge Readiness Center, and moved into the new Roanoke Regional Readiness Center, all without slowing down their tempo of operations.

"The band has always maintained a high operational tempo despite the many distractors such as moving the unit to new facilities, deployments, possible deployments or non-musical training that needs to be completed," said Carlson. "The performances on the deployment and all of the ceremonies and concerts that we performed all contributed to the band earning this award."

For members of the band, seeing their hard work recognized with an award like the ASUA is gratifying, but won't change the band's mission.

"The 29th Division Band has a rich and respected legacy and I think this award continues that tradition," said Sgt. 1st Class James Bradshaw, trombone player and group leader. "We are committed to always doing what is needed to promote the Virginia Army National Guard. Winning this award will not change our focus, it just provides a level of appreciation that what we do is important to the Commonwealth of Virginia."

"It is nice to know that the leadership recognizes the hard-work and high operational tempo enough to support getting an award for it," agreed Carlson.



Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora attached the Army Superior Unit Award streamer to the 29th Infantry Division Band unit guidon Nov. 9, 2019, in Roanoke, Virginia.

The band has several large performances already scheduled for the next year or two, including performing ceremonial music at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia, in June of 2020, and performing at the inauguration for the next Virginia governor in 2022.

The 29th Infantry Division Band has a long history of excellence, including during World War II, when 80 band Soldiers came ashore at Normandy three days after D-Day. There, the band served as litter bearers and provided assistance to mortuary affairs before moving out as two 40-member bands in an effort to entertain combat troops. To the band's commander, earning the ASUA is just a fraction of that historic legacy.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/11/12/14274/>

MORE ON THE WEB

AG delivers keynote address at Quantico National Cemetery

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/11/11/14268/>

Photos: VNG Soldiers train aerial medical evacuation

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157711729010402>

Photos: VDF conducts commo, security training

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157711771425688>

Photos: 429th BSB welcomes new CSM

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157711601542241>

Photos: 2-183rd Cavalry Squadron welcomes new CSM

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157711601383371>



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard

